

MEMORIAL

OF THE

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF ST. JOSEPH,

PRAYING TO BE

INCORPORATED WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

APRIL 8, 1828.

Referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia, and ordered to be printed.

WASHINGTON:

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MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States;

The Memorial of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph,
RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That their Institution was established near the town of Emmetsburg, Frederick county, in the State of Maryland, in July, 1809; and that on the 17th of January, 1817, the Legislature of that State passed an act of incorporation, granting them certain rights and immunities, a copy of which will accompany this memorial.

The objects of their Society are works of piety, charity, and usefulness; and especially the care of the sick; the succor of the aged, infirm, and necessitous persons; and the education of young females. At their Institution a large number of young females, from all parts of the United States, have been, and a numerous collection of them continue to be educated, in the useful as well as the ornamental branches of female education. At this Institution, many orphans from the town and surrounding country are clothed, fed, and educated; and many children, whose parents are unable to educate them, are taught such branches as may be most useful, as well as supplied with clothing, and with food, during their attendance at school.

Independent of the Mother House, branches have been established, on the solicitations of individuals, as well as of charitable institutions, in the cities of New-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Fredericktown, and Washington. In Baltimore—exclusive of those in the Asylum and Free School—a detachment of this Association were called, by the voice of the highly respectable and discerning Medical Faculty, as well as by that of humanity, to the care of the Baltimore Infirmary: the summons was obeyed: and several of the Sisters of Charity have now an opportunity of illustrating, in that patriotic and hospitable city, one of the objects of their Institution, in managing the internal concerns of that useful asylum; executing the orders and prescriptions of those able and experienced physicians who have it under charge; in nursing the aged, decrepit, and diseased, and assuaging the tortures of the wounded.

In approaching your honorable body as the Legislature of the District of Columbia, your memorialists beg leave to state that they have

now, in this City, the charge of an Asylum, where seventeen little orphans are clothed, fed, educated and protected; and three hundred and fifty-three female children, whose parents are unable to afford them an education, have been received; and one hundred and fifty are daily instructed in such branches as are calculated to make them ornaments to, as well as useful members of, society; and that to enable them to carry into effect the benefits to society contemplated, it will be necessary that they possess both personal and real property, with other powers, which, as a body, they are advised they cannot possess under the charter from Maryland. The Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, therefore, pray your honorable body to pass an act of incorporation granting them the privilege of holding property, and the power of suing and being sued; to have and use a common seal; with such other powers as may seem meet and just to your honorable body, to enable them to carry into effect the objects of their Association, as set forth in this memorial, within the District of Columbia; and, as in duty bound, they will ever acknowledge, with feelings of gratitude, the favor conferred.

SISTER ROSE WHITE,
*For and on behalf of the Sisters of Charity
of St. Joseph.*

WASHINGTON CITY, April 7, 1828.

Copy of an act of Maryland, Incorporating the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph.

CHAPTER XCV.—PASSED JANUARY 17, 1817.

An act to incorporate the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's, in Frederick County.—Lib. TH. No. 5. fol. 234.

Whereas, Elizabeth A. Seton, Elizabeth Boyle, Cecilia O. Conway, Jane Smith, Rosetta White, Margaret George, Bridget Farrell, Mary Ann Butler, Frances Jourdan, Susanna Closey, Teresa Conway, Jane Francis Gartland, Eleanor Angela Brady, Ann Gruber, Adele Salva, Elizabeth Magdalene Guerin, Sarah Thompson, Camilla Corish, Margaret Felicity Brady, Scholastica Bearn, Julia Shirk, and Louisa Roger, by their humble petition to this General Assembly, have represented, that being *unmarried women, and above the age of twenty-one years*, they have formed themselves into a religious association, by the name of the **SISTERS OF CHARITY** of St. JOSEPH's, and *under the superintendence of certain clergymen*, of their religious persuasion, for *works of piety, charity and usefulness*, and especially for the care of the sick, the succor of aged, infirm and necessitous persons, and the education of young females; which association, from *its nature and objects, as well as its positive regulations, must always be composed of unmarried women*; that for the purposes of their institution, and as a place of residence for themselves and their successors, a farm near Emmitsburg, in Frederick county, in this State, has been bestowed on them by a pious and charitable person, from the cultivation and rents of

which, they derive a part of their support, and on which their own industry, and some charitable donations, have enabled them to erect suitable buildings for their residence, and for the use of their school; that as the individuals who compose their association, change by deaths and new admissions, they cannot hold this property in their own names, because of the very great embarrassments to which those changes must give rise; for which reason, it has been vested in, and is now held by, two of their friends for the benefit of their institution; that the untimely death of these individuals, without making the necessary dispositions on the subject, and the difficulty of finding a succession of suitable depositaries for such a trust, must expose the petitioners to great embarrassment, and even to the loss of their property; while the danger and fear of similar embarrassments and inconveniences may, and probably do, prevent other charitable persons, favorably disposed towards the objects of their institution, from making to them such donations within proper limits, as to value and amount, as would enable them to become more extensively useful; for which inconveniences they are advised, that a proper and adequate remedy cannot be afforded, without an act of General Assembly, constituting them a body corporate, with perpetual succession, and such powers and privileges for taking, holding, and disposing of property, as may be judged adequate and proper: And whereas, the facts set forth in said petition, appear to be true, and the prayer thereof is reasonable and proper:

Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, that the said Elizabeth A. Seton, Elizabeth Boyle, Cecilia O. Conway, Jane Smith, Rosetta White, Margaret George, Bridget Farrell, Mary Ann Butler, Frances Jourdan, Susanna Closey, Teresa Conway, Jane Francis Gartland, Eleanor Angela Brady, Ann Gruber, Adele Salva, Elizabeth Magdalene Guerin, Sarah Thompson, Camilla Corish, Margaret Felicity Brady, Scholastica Bearn, Julia Shirk, Louisa Roger, and their successors hereafter, to become Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's, according to the rules and regulations of their association, for the time being, shall be and hereby are, constituted a body corporate, by the name and style of The Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's, with perpetual succession, and power to sue and be sued, and to have and use a common seal, and to take and hold, in fee simple or otherwise, the farm in Frederick county, in this State, on which they now dwell, and any other lands and real estate, and any personal or mixed estate, to sell, lease, dispose of, and convey, in as full and ample a manner as any person or body corporate holding any lands or property, real, personal, or mixed, may sell, lease, dispose of, and convey the same; and to collect and receive the rents, profits, proceeds and emoluments of all property by them so held or possessed, and apply the same to the use of their said association, according to the rules and regulations established from time to time for the government thereof: Provided always, that they shall not at any time hold, use, possess, and enjoy, either by legal seizure or trust, for their benefit, more than eight hundred acres of land, nor shall their personal estate at any time exceed in value the sum of fifty thousand dollars.

Copied from the 6th vol. of the Laws of Maryland, in the 95th Chap.
Charles Ridgely, Esq. of Hampton, Governor.





